

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 - 22 and 24 - 39 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3 - 22 and 24 - 32 have been rejected in the present Office Action. Claims 33 - 39 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 32 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,194,788, issued to Gilleo in view of JP 58103525, issued to Kunitomo. Claims 3 - 22 and 24 - 31 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gilleo in view of Kunitomo and further in view of JP 62-081416A, issued to Kobayashi. Distinctions between Gilleo, Kunitomo, Kobayashi and the present invention have been set forth in previous responses filed by Applicants, and Applicants reiterate that those distinctions are fully applicable to the present rejections based on those references. The Examiner has stated that it would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the solidification and cure temperatures that are set out in the amended claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with this assertion by the Examiner. The imidazole/anhydride adduct catalyst required for the present invention requires a cure temperature greater than 180°C to allow the solder to form a proper interconnection. The interaction between the cure temperature and the catalyst is thus critical. "Routine" experimentation would not lead to the present invention because there is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion that would guide one skilled in the art to experimentation within the claimed combination of cure temperature and catalyst. As shown in Example 4, Table 1 of the present application, cure temperatures outside the claimed ranges are not useful with the present invention. Further, the claimed B-stage temperature is intimately tied to the final cure temperature because, as set out page 6, lines 21 - 23 that temperature is preferably at least 30° below the final cure temperature. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 32 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gilleo in view of Kunitomo and claims 3 - 22 and 24 - 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Gilleo and Kunitomo in view of Kobayashi.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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